Proclamation by Governor Jim Justice

Whereas, the children of West Virginia deserve safe and loving environments where they can thrive and grow, shielded from harmful childhood trauma and domestic violence; and

Whereas, Family Courts in West Virginia have stood sentinel in this area, prioritizing child safety and acting in the best interest of West Virginia's children; and

Whereas, Family Court Awareness Month was created to increase awareness on the importance of a Family Court system that prioritizes child safety and acts in the best interest of children; and

Whereas, this month has been designated to spread community awareness on the importance of education and training on domestic violence, childhood trauma, and post separation abuse for all persons utilizing or working within the Family Court system; and

Whereas, the mission of organizations such as the Family Court Awareness Month Committee is to educate communities on the empirical data and research that is currently available, as this research is a critical component in continuing to develop policies that protect and prioritize the safety of our children, helping to ensure that these young West Virginians receive the care and resources vital to ensure that they grow into prosperous and productive members of our communities; and

Whereas, Family Court Awareness Month is a time to increase awareness and advocate for abuse free environments for children within our State, while honoring the hundreds of children who have been victims of violence by separating or divorcing parents.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *November 2023* as:

Family Court Awareness Month

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twenty-Forth day of October, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixty-First year of the State.

TO THE SENSE THE PARTY OF THE P

Jim Justice Governor

By the Governor:

Mac Warner Secretary of State